

REMARKS

The claims are claims 1 to 27 and 29 to 31.

Claims 1 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Min-Jae U.S. Patent No. 6,222,807.

Claims 1, 13 and 25 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 1 and 13 recite "an analog input connection connected to said audio coder-decoder for receiving an analog input." Claim 13 recites "a base unit analog output connection for connection to said analog input connection of said first base connector." Claim 25 recites "a base unit analog output connection connected to said tuner to output demodulated analog audio signals." The FINAL REJECTION states at page 4, lines 5 to 7 that Min-Jae discloses:

"An analog input connection connected to said audio encoder/decoder for receiving an analog input form external based unit (Fig. 3, connector 27 and I/F driver 26);"

The Applicant respectfully submits this statement is incorrect. The Applicant respectfully submits that this connection cited in the FINAL REJECTION is a digital connection and not the analog connection recited in claims 1, 13 and 15. Figure 3 of Min-Jae illustrates base unit 10 including connector 27 and interface driver 26. Figure 4 of Min-Jae illustrates portable apparatus 50 including connector 60 selectively connectable to connector 27 and interface driver 59. Min-Jae states at column 14, lines 5 to 12:

"As shown in FIG. 2, the recording/playback apparatus 10 also has a connector 27 for connecting the portable apparatus 50 thereto. With the connector 27 put in a state of being engaged with a connector 60 of the portable apparatus 50, the CPU 11 is capable of communicating various kinds of data with the portable apparatus 50 by way of an interface driver 26. For

example, an audio file stored in the HDD 15 can be transferred to the portable apparatus 50."

This clearly states that data from HDD 15 can be transmitted from base unit 10 to portable apparatus 50 via connector 27 and connector 27. This data path presumably also includes connector 60 and interface driver 59. Min-Jae states at column 11, lines 50 and 51 that "HDD" means "hard disk drive." Such a hard disk drive is known to store digital data and not analog data. Min-Jae states at column 18, lines 45 to 48:

"To put it in detail, the audio file is transferred from the HDD 15 to the HDD 54 by way of the interface drivers 26 and 59 to be recorded into the HDD 54."

Since both HDD 15 and HDD 54 are disclosed as a type of apparatus that stores digital data, the interface drivers 26 and 59 handle digital data and thus interface driver 26 and interface driver 60 also handle digital data. One skilled in the art would understand this connection between connectors 27 and 60 is digital data and not the analog data claimed. The FINAL REJECTION does not point out any portion of Min-Jae disclosing an analog connection. The Applicant submits that Min-Jae teaches no such analog connection. In this regard, Min-Jae is no different than the previously cited Chang et al U.S. Patent No. 6,631,098. Min-Jae discloses the connection operates with devices known to handle digital data and does not explicitly disclose the recited analog connection. Note further that the FINAL REJECTION cites at page 5, lines 8 to 11 these same connectors 27 and 60 as anticipating the digital connections recited in claim 3. Thus even the Examiner realizes that these are digital connections. Accordingly, Min-Jae fails to anticipate the analog connection recited in claims 1, 13 and 25. Thus claims 1, 13 and 25 are allowable over Min-Jae.

Claims 2, 14 and 26 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claim 2 recites "said data processor is further programmed in cooperation with input/output device said whereby a user may enter volume control data via said keypad; and said base connector further includes a volume data connection for transmission of volume control data from the self-contained, portable music player to an external base unit." Claim 14 recites "said data processor is further programmed in cooperation with input/output device said whereby a user may enter volume control data via said keypad; said first base connector further includes a volume data output connection for transmission of volume control data from the self-contained, portable music player; said second base connector further includes a volume data input connection for connection to said volume data output connection; and said pre-amplifier is further connected to said volume data input connection and producing an amount of amplification corresponding thereto." Claim 26 recites "said base connector further includes a volume data input connection for receiving of volume control data from the self-contained, portable music player; said pre-amplifier is further connected to said volume data input connection and producing an amount of amplification corresponding thereto." These claims require that a volume control input made at the self-contained, portable music player be converted to volume control data, that volume control data be transmitted to the base unit which controls the "amount of amplification" at the base unit. The FINAL REJECTION states at page 5, lines 4 to 7:

"As to claims 2, 14 and 26, MIN-JAE shows the volume can be control from portable player or base unit (Fig.2, volume control on panel operation unit 20 and in portable player 50, figure 4, via connector 27 and USB bus B1, B2)."

The Applicants submit that this is incorrect. Min-Jae fails to teach that any input operation made at portable apparatus 50 controls operation at base recording/playback apparatus 10. Min-Jae states at column 14, lines 50 to 56:

"When any of the operators Kb which serve as the panel operation unit 56 is operated, an operation signal requesting an operation to be carried out by the portable apparatus 50 is output by the panel operation unit 56 to a control bus B2. The portable apparatus 50 then carries out the operation requested by the operation signal."

This states that inputs at panel operation unit 56 controls operation at the portable apparatus 50. This does not anticipate that input a panel operation unit 56 supplies signals to base unit recording/playback apparatus 10 to control its operation as required by the above quoted language of claims 2, 14 and 26. The above quoted paragraph of the FINAL REJECTION denotes a pathway disclosed in Min-Jae where it is feasible to transmit the recited volume control data. However, Min-Jae fails to provide any indication that this path is used in this way. The Applicant resubmits that one skilled in the art would believe that panel operation unit 20 is used to control recording/playback unit 10 and panel operation unit 56 is used to control portable apparatus 50. In the absence of any indication within Min-Jae that transmission of volume control data between portable apparatus 50 and recording/playback unit 10 is feasible or desirable, Min-Jae fails to anticipate this recited subject matter. Accordingly, claims 2, 14 and 26 are allowable over Min-Jae et al.

Claims 13 and 25 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 13 and 25 recite "a tuner for receiving and demodulating analog audio signals." Claim 13 further recites "said tuner supplying said analog audio signals to said base unit analog output connection" and claim 25 further recites "a base unit analog

output connection connected to said tuner to output demodulated analog audio signals." The FINAL REJECTION at page 6, lines 13 to 16 cite Min-Jae at column 8, lines 58 to 63 as anticipating this subject matter. Min-Jae states at column 8, lines 58 to 63

"As shown in FIG. 2, the recording/playback apparatus 10 is designed as equipment having a type of the so-called cassette tape recorder/player having a radio so that it is suitable for use by the user typically at home. It is needless to say that the recording/playback apparatus 10 can also be designed as component-type equipment."

This portion of Min-Jae teaches a radio as part of the recording/playback apparatus 10. However, Min-Jae includes no teaching that recording/playback apparatus 10 transmits an analog signal to portable apparatus 50 as required by the above quoted portions of claims 13 and 25. Accordingly, claims 13 and 25 are allowable over Min-Jae.

Claims 29 to 31 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 29 and 31 recite the base connector of the player includes "a digital data bus connection for bidirectional data exchange." Claims 29 and 31 further recite the data processor of the player is further connected to the digital data bus connection "for communicating station selection data corresponding to inputs received from said input/output device" via the digital data bus connection to the base unit. Claims 30 and 31 recite a base connector including a "digital data bus connection." Claim 30 recites this digital data bus connection is "for connection to said first digital data bus connection." Claim 31 recites this digital data bus connection is "for receiving digital data including station selection data." Lastly, claims 30 and 31 recites that the tuner is connected to this digital data bus connection and selects "a station corresponding to said station selection data." These recitations provide the tuner in the base unit with station

selection made by the input/output device of the portable unit with station selection data transferred by a digital data bus. This subject matter is not anticipated by Min-Jae. Min-Jae teaches that recording/playback unit 10 includes a radio but fails to teach the transmission of station selection data via a digital data bus. The FINAL REJECTION denotes a pathway disclosed in Min-Jae where it is feasible to transmit the recited station selection data. However, Min-Jae fails to provide any indication that this path is used in this way. The Applicant resubmits that one skilled in the art would believe that panel operation unit 20 is used to control recording/playback unit 10 to make any station selection. In the absence of any indication within Min-Jae that transmission of station selection data between portable apparatus 50 and recording/playback unit 10 is feasible or desirable, Min-Jae fails to anticipate this recited subject matter. Accordingly, claims 29 to 31 are not anticipated by Min-Jae.

The Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of this amendment. Entry of this amendment is proper at this time because the amendment serves only to clarify subject matter previously recited. Thus no new search or reconsideration is required.

The Applicants respectfully submit that all the present claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore early entry of this amendment, reconsideration and advance to issue are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the below listed telephone number and address to facilitate prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,


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